

as elm, being most likely dependent on their proximity to poplar on which it is breeding. This, at least, is suggested by the evidence so far available. The single example from my Blackheath garden could have been a stray from the breeding-site in the vicinity, not then discovered. It would seem further to be a species whose numbers may fluctuate a good deal from year to year, and in which females tend to predominate heavily.

My best thanks are due to Mr. Fonseca for drawing my attention to this unexpected addition to the fauna, for generously inviting me to describe it, and for his constant and invaluable help. It may be of interest to mention in passing that I have taken in the same area what appears to us to be another new species of the genus, the description of which, however, must await the discovery of more material.

## Notes and Observations

### COLLECTING MYRMECOZELA OCHRACEELA (TENGSTROM).—

Finding this moth was one of the high spots of a very successful fortnight in Scotland in 1975. On the 29th June we were round Loch Rannoch and late in the hot afternoon struck up into the woodland looking for the wood ants' nests. These were not easy to find being quite small compared with those in Southern England. Having located a nest we used the bee-smoker on the surrounding vegetation which was mainly heather. As nothing appeared we smoked the nest itself and were delighted to disturb four of the yellow moths. More than an hour passed in the fruitless smoking of other nests before we hit upon a rather larger one where we were able to see plenty of *ochraceella*. It was noticeable that they kept close to the debris of the nest, usually sitting on the dry stalks of grasses in the bare perimeter area. One dead moth was seen being carried by the ants, and the moths were quick to flit from their perches when an ant touched them. Nevertheless they obviously survive in a sort of partnership with the ants, their larvae feeding on the refuse in the nest. One cannot help wondering though how the moths emerge from below, surrounded as they are by swarms of voracious ants ready and able to seize anything that moves.—R. FAIRCLOUGH, Blencathra, Deanoak Lane, Leigh, Reigate, RH2 8PZ.

### TWO SPECIES OF MICROLEPIDOPTERA REARED FROM

UNUSUAL FOODPLANTS.—(i) *Leucoptera spartifoliella* (Hübner). The life-history of *Trifurcula pallidella* Zeller is not known, but it has been supposed that it mines the bark of dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*). One of the localities where *T. pallidella* used to be taken is Ditchling Common in Sussex. Accordingly, my wife and I visited the locality on the 24th April, 1973 to search for its larva. We found that the bark of *Genista* was indeed being mined by a lepidopterous larva; so we dug up a plant which was infested and took it home with us. I extracted one of the larvae from its mine in order to describe it and was immediately aware that it was not a nepticulid. In due

course the larvae vacated their mines and spun white cocoons on the branches of their foodplant. These exactly resembled the cocoons of *Leucoptera spartifoliella* which I happened to be rearing simultaneously on broom (*Sarothamnus scoparius*) in order to compare its life-history with that of *Trifurcula immundella* (Zeller). The adults from the larvae on *Genista* and *Sarothamnus* emerged together in early June and were indistinguishable. I took imagines from both cultures to Dr. J. D. Bradley at the British Museum (Natural History) and he could not find any differences in the genitalia either. There is, therefore, no ground for regarding the moths from the two foodplants as distinct, and *Genista* is assumed to be an alternative foodplant of *L. spartifoliella*.

There is no question of these larvae on *Genista* being those of the phyllophagous *Leucoptera walesella* (Stainton) (considered to be conspecific with *L. laburnella* (Stainton) by many entomologists). *L. spartifoliella* is univoltine and its larvae feed from October until March, April or even early May, according to the temperature of the season. *L. walesella*, on the other hand, is bivoltine with larvae occurring in June and August; the second generation overwinters in the cocoon. *L. walesella* is found at Ditchling on the same plants as *L. spartifoliella*, but its larvae had not yet started to mine the leaves at the time of our visit.

Hering, in his *Bestimmungstabellen der Blattminen von Europa* (1: 467), follows tradition in stating that *T. pallidella* mines the bark of *Genista tinctoria*, though he admits that he is unable to describe the mine. *T. pallidella* is one of our largest nepticulids and is distinctly bigger than *L. spartifoliella*. Since the relatively thick bark of *Genista* is scarcely able to accommodate the larva of the latter species, it seems to me most unlikely that *T. pallidella* could feed in the same manner. Possibly mines of *L. spartifoliella* have been seen on *Genista* in localities where *T. pallidella* occurs and have been wrongly attributed to that species.

(ii) *Calybites phasianipennella* (Hübner). The usual foodplants of *C. phasianipennella* are species of *Rumex* and *Polygonum*. On a visit to Wicken Fen on the 23rd August, 1975, I took a larva of this species feeding on a leaf of yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*); the same leaf contained both the early *Phyllonorycter*-type mine and the cone made from a strip partially severed from the edge of the leaf. The adult emerged on the 29th September.

In August, 1962, I found similar mines on yellow loosestrife at Woodwalton Fen, but bred no adults. At the time I did not recognise the species responsible, though later I came to know what it must have been, having read Hering's description of the mine on this foodplant (*loc. cit.*, 1: 647). I was therefore glad to get confirmation that *C. phasianipennella* feeds on *Lysimachia* in Britain as well as on the continent. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 30.xii.1975.